Project Learning Tree *Trees & Me: Activities for Exploring Nature with Young Children* correlation of numbered activities to the SC Early Learning Standards

Project Learning Tree's *Trees & Me: Activities for Exploring Nature with Young Children* is a comprehensive guide for teachers and caregivers to use for connecting children ages 1-6 to nature, with a particular focus on trees. The guide contains 12 numbered activities, which are divided into 3 sections based on theme.

The SC Early Learning Standards (SC ELS) describe expectations for what children will learn, from infancy through kindergarten entry. They are divided into six developmental domains: Approaches to Play and Learning (APL), Emotional and Social Development (ESD), Health and Physical Development (HPD), Language Development and Communication (LDC), Mathematical Thinking and Expression (MTE), and Cognitive Development (CD). Each domain is organized into goals to support planning appropriate activities and learning experiences for children.

The following document shows how the *Trees & Me* activities align with developmental goals from the SC Early Learning Standards (ELS). The numbered Activities are listed next to the correlating developmental goals (e.g.*, The Shape of Things (1)*).

While this document was thoughtfully developed in detail, there may exist additional correlations. Unstructured activities & experiences, and basic suggestions for providing materials were not correlated.

The SC Early Learning Standards (2017) can be found as a free, printable PDF document on the SC Department of Social Services, Division of Early Care and Education website at www.scchildcare.org. *"Trees & Me: Activities for Exploring Nature with Young Children"* may be found online or by contacting the SC PLT State Coordinator, Matt Schnabel, at the South Carolina Forestry Commission.

South Carolina Early Learning Standards	Correlating Activities from *Trees & Me: Activities for Exploring Nature with Young Children*
	Subdomain: Curiosity, Information-Seeking, and Eagerness
Domain: Approaches to Play and Learning (APL) **APL-1: Children show curiosity and express interest in the world around them.**	• The Shape of Things (1) • Sounds Around (2) • Tree Textures (3) • Follow Your Nose (4) • Fall for Trees (5) • Evergreens in Winter (6) • Best Buds (7) • My Tree and Me (8) • Parts to Play (9) • Home Tweet Home (10) • Community Explorers (11) • Three Cheers for Trees (12)
APL-2: Children actively seek to understand the world around them.	• The Shape of Things (1) • Sounds Around (2) • Tree Textures (3) • Follow Your Nose (4) • Fall for Trees (5) • Evergreens in Winter (6) • Best Buds (7) • My Tree and Me (8) • Parts to Play (9) • Home Tweet Home (10) • Community Explorers (11) • Three Cheers for Trees (12)
APL-3: Children engage in increasingly complex play.	• The Shape of Things (1) • Sounds Around (2) • Tree Textures (3) • Follow Your Nose (4) • Fall for Trees (5) • Evergreens in Winter (6) • Best Buds (7) • My Tree and Me (8) • Parts to Play (9) • Home Tweet Home (10) • Community Explorers (11) • Three Cheers for Trees (12)

Domain: Approaches to Play and Learning (APL)	APL-4: Children demonstrate creativity, imagination, and inventiveness.	• The Shape of Things (1) • Sounds Around (2) • Tree Textures (3) • Follow Your Nose (4) • Fall for Trees (5) • Evergreens in Winter (6) • Best Buds (7) • My Tree and Me (8) • Parts to Play (9) • Home Tweet Home (10) • Community Explorers (11) • Three Cheers for Trees (12)
	Subdomain: Risk-Taking, Problem-Solving, and Flexibility	
	APL-5: Children are willing to try new and challenging experiences.	• The Shape of Things (1) • Sounds Around (2) • Tree Textures (3) • Follow Your Nose (4) • Fall for Trees (5) • Evergreens in Winter (6) • Best Buds (7) • My Tree and Me (8) • Parts to Play (9) • Home Tweet Home (10) • Community Explorers (11) Three Cheers for Trees (12)
	APL-6: Children use a variety of strategies to solve problems.	• The Shape of Things (1) • Sounds Around (2) • Tree Textures (3) • Follow Your Nose (4) • Fall for Trees (5) • Evergreens in Winter (6) • Best Buds (7) • My Tree and Me (8) • Parts to Play (9) • Home Tweet Home (10) • Community Explorers (11) Three Cheers for Trees (12)

		Subdomain: Attentiveness, Effort, and Persistence
Domain: Approaches to Play and Learning (APL)	**APL-7: Children demonstrate initiative.**	• The Shape of Things (1) • Follow Your Nose (4) • Evergreens in Winter (6) • Best Buds (7) • Parts to Play (9) • Home Tweet Home (10) • Three Cheers for Trees (12)
	APL-8: Children maintain attentiveness and focus.	• The Shape of Things (1) • Sounds Around (2) • Tree Textures (3) • Follow Your Nose (4) • Fall for Trees (5) • Evergreens in Winter (6) • Best Buds (7) • My Tree and Me (8) • Parts to Play (9) • Home Tweet Home (10) • Three Cheers for Trees (12)
	APL-9: Children persist at challenging activities.	• The Shape of Things (1) • Sounds Around (2) • Fall for Trees (5) • Evergreens in Winter (6) • Home Tweet Home (10)

		Subdomain: Developing a Sense of Self
Domain: Emotional and Social Development	**ESD-1: Children demonstrate a positive sense of self-identity and self-awareness.**	• The Shape of Things (1) • Sounds Around (2) • Tree Textures (3) • Follow Your Nose (4) • Fall for Trees (5) • Evergreens in Winter (6) • Best Buds (7) • My Tree and Me (8) • Parts to Play (9) • Home Tweet Home (10) • Community Explorers (11) • Three Cheers for Trees (12)

Domain: Emotional and Social Development (ESD)	ESD-2: Children express positive feelings about themselves and confidence in what they can do.	• The Shape of Things (1) • Sounds Around (2) • Tree Textures (3) • Follow Your Nose (4) • Fall for Trees (5) • Evergreens in Winter (6) • Best Buds (7) • My Tree and Me (8) • Parts to Play (9) • Home Tweet Home (10) • Community Explorers (11) • Three Cheers for Trees (12)
	Subdomain: Developing a Sense of Self with Others	
	ESD-3: Children form relationships and interact positively with familiar adults who are consistent and responsive to their needs.	• Community Explorers (11) • Three Cheers for Trees (12)
	ESD-4: Children form relationships and interact positively with other children.	• Community Explorers (11) • Three Cheers for Trees (12)
	ESD-5: Children demonstrate the social and behavioral skills needed to successfully participate in groups.	• The Shape of Things (1) • Sounds Around (2) • Tree Textures (3) • Follow Your Nose (4) • Fall for Trees (5) • Evergreens in Winter (6) • Best Buds (7) • My Tree and Me (8) • Parts to Play (9) • Home Tweet Home (10) • Community Explorers (11) • Three Cheers for Trees (12)

		Subdomain: Learning About Feelings	
Domain: Emotional and Social	**ESD-6: Children identify, manage, and express their feelings.**	• Sounds Around (2) • Best Buds (7) • My Tree and Me (8) • Community Explorers (11) • Three Cheers for Trees (12)	
	ESD-7: Children recognize and respond to the needs and feelings of others.	• Community Explorers (11) • Three Cheers for Trees (12)	

		Subdomain: Physical Health and Growth	
Domain: Health and Physical Development (HPD)	**HPD-1: Children develop healthy eating habits.**	• The Shape of Things (1) • Best Buds (7) • Parts to Play (9) • Community Explorers (11)	
	HPD-2: Children engage in and sustain various forms of physical play indoors and outdoors.	• The Shape of Things (1) • Sounds Around (2) • Tree Textures (3) • Follow Your Nose (4) • Fall for Trees (5) • Evergreens in Winter (6) • Best Buds (7) • My Tree and Me (8) • Parts to Play (9) • Home Tweet Home (10) • Community Explorers (11) • Three Cheers for Trees (12)	
	HPD-3: Children develop healthy sleeping habits.		
		Subdomain: Motor Development	
	HPD-4: Children develop the large muscle control and abilities needed to move through and explore their environment.	• The Shape of Things (1) • Sounds Around (2) • Tree Textures (3) • Follow Your Nose (4) • Fall for Trees (5) • Evergreens in Winter (6) • Best Buds (7) • My Tree and Me (8) • Parts to Play (9)	

Domain: Health and Physical Development (HPD)	HPD-4: Children develop the large muscle control and abilities needed to move through and explore their environment. *(continued)*	• Home Tweet Home (10) • Community Explorers (11) • Three Cheers for Trees (12)
	HPD-5: Children develop small muscle control and hand-eye coordination to manipulate objects and work with tools.	• The Shape of Things (1) • Sounds Around (2) • Tree Textures (3) • Follow Your Nose (4) • Fall for Trees (5) • Evergreens in Winter (6) • Best Buds (7) • My Tree and Me (8) • Parts to Play (9) • Home Tweet Home (10) • Community Explorers (11) • Three Cheers for Trees (12)
	Subdomain: Self-Care	
	HPD-6: Children develop awareness of their needs and the ability to communicate.	• Community Explorers (11)
	HPD-7: Children develop independence in caring for themselves and their environment.	• Community Explorers (11)
	Subdomain: Safety Awareness	
	HPD-8: Children develop awareness of basic safety rules and begin to follow them.	• Community Explorers (11)

Subdomain: Learning to Communicate		
Domain: Language Development and Communication (LDC)	**LDC-1: Children understand communications from others.**	• The Shape of Things (1) • Sounds Around (2) • Tree Textures (3) • Follow Your Nose (4) • Fall for Trees (5) • Evergreens in Winter (6) • Best Buds (7) • My Tree and Me (8) • Parts to Play (9) • Home Tweet Home (10) • Community Explorers (11) • Three Cheers for Trees (12)
	LDC-2: Children participate in conversations with peers and adults in one-on-one, small, and larger group interactions.	• The Shape of Things (1) • Sounds Around (2) • Tree Textures (3) • Follow Your Nose (4) • Fall for Trees (5) • Evergreens in Winter (6) • Best Buds (7) • My Tree and Me (8) • Parts to Play (9) • Home Tweet Home (10) • Community Explorers (11) • Three Cheers for Trees (12)
	LDC-3: Children ask and answer questions in order to seek help, get information, or clarify something that is not understood.	• The Shape of Things (1) • Sounds Around (2) • Tree Textures (3) • Follow Your Nose (4) • Fall for Trees (5) • Evergreens in Winter (6) • Best Buds (7) • My Tree and Me (8) • Parts to Play (9) • Home Tweet Home (10) • Community Explorers (11) • Three Cheers for Trees (12)

	Subdomain: Learning to Communicate	
Domain: Language Development and Communication (LDC)	**LDC-4: Children speak audibly and express thoughts, feelings, and ideas clearly.**	• The Shape of Things (1) • Sounds Around (2) • Tree Textures (3) • Follow Your Nose (4) • Fall for Trees (5) • Evergreens in Winter (6) • Best Buds (7) • My Tree and Me (8) • Parts to Play (9) • Home Tweet Home (10) • Community Explorers (11) • Three Cheers for Trees (12)
	LDC-5: Children describe familiar people, places, things, and events.	• The Shape of Things (1) • Sounds Around (2) • Tree Textures (3) • Follow Your Nose (4) • Fall for Trees (5) • Evergreens in Winter (6) • Best Buds (7) • My Tree and Me (8) • Parts to Play (9) • Home Tweet Home (10) • Community Explorers (11) • Three Cheers for Trees (12)
	LDC-6: Children use most grammatical constructions of their home language well.	
	LDC-7: Children respond to and use a growing vocabulary.	• The Shape of Things (1) • Sounds Around (2) • Tree Textures (3) • Follow Your Nose (4) • Fall for Trees (5) • Evergreens in Winter (6) • Best Buds (7) • My Tree and Me (8) • Parts to Play (9) • Home Tweet Home (10) • Community Explorers (11) • Three Cheers for Trees (12)

Domain: Language Development and Communication (LDC)	Subdomain: Foundations for Reading	
	LDC-8: Children develop interest in books and motivation to read.	• The Shape of Things (1) • Sounds Around (2) • Tree Textures (3) • Follow Your Nose (4) • Fall for Trees (5) • Evergreens in Winter (6) • Best Buds (7) • My Tree and Me (8) • Parts to Play (9) • Home Tweet Home (10) • Community Explorers (11) • Three Cheers for Trees (12)
	LDC-9: Children develop book knowledge and print awareness.	• My Tree and Me (8) • Parts to Play (9) • Home Tweet Home (10) • Community Explorers (11) • Three Cheers for Trees (12)
	LDC-10: Children comprehend, and use information presented in books and other print media.	• The Shape of Things (1) • Sounds Around (2) • Tree Textures (3) • Follow Your Nose (4) • Fall for Trees (5) • Evergreens in Winter (6) • Best Buds (7) • My Tree and Me (8) • Parts to Play (9) • Home Tweet Home (10) • Community Explorers (11) • Three Cheers for Trees (12)
	LDC-11: Children develop phonological awareness.	• Best Buds (7)
	LDC-12: Children develop knowledge of the alphabet and the alphabetic principle.	

		Subdomain: Foundations for Writing
Domain: Language Development and Communication (LDC)	**LDC-13: Children use writing and other symbols to record information and communicate for a variety of purposes.**	• Tree Textures (3) • Fall for Trees (5) • Evergreens in Winter (6) • My Tree and Me (8) • Parts to Play (9) • Home Tweet Home (10) • Community Explorers (11) • Three Cheers for Trees (12)
	LDC-14: Children use knowledge of letters in their attempts to write.	• Tree Textures (3) • Fall for Trees (5) • Evergreens in Winter (6) • My Tree and Me (8) • Parts to Play (9) • Home Tweet Home (10) • Community Explorers (11) • Three Cheers for Trees (12)
	LDC-15: Children use writing skills and writing conventions.	• Tree Textures (3) • Fall for Trees (5) • Evergreens in Winter (6) • My Tree and Me (8) • Parts to Play (9) • Home Tweet Home (10) • Community Explorers (11) • Three Cheers for Trees (12)

		Subdomain: Foundations for Number Sense
Domain: Mathematical Thinking and Expression	**MTE-1: Children demonstrate a beginning understanding of numbers and quantity during play and other activities.**	• The Shape of Things (1) • Sounds Around (2) • Follow Your Nose (4) • Fall for Trees (5) • Evergreens in Winter (6) • My Tree and Me (8) • Community Explorers (11)
	MTE-2: Children demonstrate a beginning understanding of numbers and operations during play and other activities.	• Fall for Trees (5) • Evergreens in Winter (6) • My Tree and Me (8) • Community Explorers (11)

Domain: Mathematical Thinking and Expression (MTE)	**Subdomain: Foundations for Algebraic Thinking**
	MTE-3: Children demonstrate a beginning understanding of algebraic thinking by sorting, describing, extending, and creating simple patterns during play and other activities. • The Shape of Things (1) • Tree Textures (3) • Fall for Trees (5) • Best Buds (7) • Community Explorers (11) • Three Cheers for Trees (12)
	Subdomain: Foundations for Geometry and Spatial Understanding
	MTE-4: Children begin to identify, describe, classify, and understand shape, size, direction and movement during play and other activities. • The Shape of Things (1) • Tree Textures (3) • Fall for Trees (5) • Evergreens in Winter (6) • Best Buds (7) • My Tree and Me (8) • Community Explorers (11) • Three Cheers for Trees (12)
	Subdomain: Foundations for Measurement and Data Analysis
	MTE-5: Children demonstrate a beginning understanding of measurement (the idea of repeating the use of an object to measure) and a beginning understanding of data analysis through comparing, and interpreting data during play and other activities. • The Shape of Things (1) • Sounds Around (2) • Follow Your Nose (4) • Fall for Trees (5) • Evergreens in Winter (6) • Best Buds (7) • My Tree and Me (8) • Community Explorers (11)
	Subdomain: Mathematical Thinking and Reasoning
	MTE-6: Children use mathematical thinking to solve problems in their everyday environment. • The Shape of Things (1) • Tree Textures (3) • Fall for Trees (5) • Evergreens in Winter (6) • My Tree and Me (8) • Community Explorers (11)

	Subdomain: Construction of Knowledge: Thinking and Reasoning	
Domain: Cognitive Development (CD)	**CD-1: Children use their senses to construct knowledge about the world around them.**	• The Shape of Things (1) • Sounds Around (2) • Tree Textures (3) • Follow Your Nose (4) • Fall for Trees (5) • Evergreens in Winter (6) • Best Buds (7) • My Tree and Me (8) • Parts to Play (9) • Home Tweet Home (10) • Community Explorers (11) • Three Cheers for Trees (12)
	CD-2: Children recall information and use it for addressing new situations and problems.	• The Shape of Things (1) • Sounds Around (2) • Tree Textures (3) • Follow Your Nose (4) • Fall for Trees (5) • Evergreens in Winter (6) • Best Buds (7) • My Tree and Me (8) • Parts to Play (9) • Home Tweet Home (10) • Community Explorers (11) • Three Cheers for Trees (12)
	CD-3: Children demonstrate the ability to think about their own thinking: reasoning, taking perspectives, and making decisions.	• Tree Textures (3) • Follow Your Nose (4) • Fall for Trees (5) • Evergreens in Winter (6) • Best Buds (7) • My Tree and Me (8) • Parts to Play (9) • Home Tweet Home (10) • Community Explorers (11) • Three Cheers for Trees (12)

Domain: Cognitive Development (CD)	Subdomain: Creative Expression		
	CD-4: Children demonstrate appreciation for different forms of artistic expression.	• The Shape of Things (1) • Sounds Around (2) • Tree Textures (3) • Follow Your Nose (4) • Fall for Trees (5) • Evergreens in Winter (6) • Best Buds (7) • My Tree and Me (8) • Parts to Play (9) • Home Tweet Home (10) • Community Explorers (11) • Three Cheers for Trees (12)	
	CD-5: Children demonstrate self-expression and creativity in a variety of forms and contexts, including play, visual arts, music, drama, and dance.	• The Shape of Things (1) • Sounds Around (2) • Tree Textures (3) • Follow Your Nose (4) • Fall for Trees (5) • Evergreens in Winter (6) • Best Buds (7) • My Tree and Me (8) • Parts to Play (9) • Home Tweet Home (10) • Community Explorers (11) • Three Cheers for Trees (12)	
	Subdomain: Social Connections		
	CD-6: Children demonstrate knowledge of relationships and roles within their own families, homes, classrooms, and communities.	• Community Explorers (11)	
	CD-7: Children recognize that they are members of different groups (e.g. family, preschool class, cultural group).	• Community Explorers (11)	

Domain: Cognitive Development (CD)	CD-8: Children identify and demonstrate acceptance of similarities and differences between themselves and others.	• Follow Your Nose (4) • Community Explorers (11)
	CD-9: Children explore concepts connected with their daily experiences in their community.	• The Shape of Things (1) • Follow Your Nose (4) • Fall for Trees (5) • Best Buds (7) • Home Tweet Home (10) • Community Explorers (11)
	Subdomain: Scientific Exploration and Knowledge	
	CD-10: Children observe and describe characteristics of living things and the physical world.	• The Shape of Things (1) • Sounds Around (2) • Tree Textures (3) • Follow Your Nose (4) • Fall for Trees (5) • Evergreens in Winter (6) • Best Buds (7) • My Tree and Me (8) • Parts to Play (9) • Home Tweet Home (10) • Community Explorers (11) • Three Cheers for Trees (12)
	CD-11: Children explore the natural world by observing, manipulating objects, asking questions, making predictions, and developing generalizations.	• The Shape of Things (1) • Sounds Around (2) • Tree Textures (3) • Follow Your Nose (4) • Fall for Trees (5) • Evergreens in Winter (6) • Best Buds (7) • My Tree and Me (8) • Parts to Play (9) • Home Tweet Home (10) • Community Explorers (11) • Three Cheers for Trees (12)